

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23 (cancelled).

Claim 24 (currently amended). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in ~~claim 23~~ claim 27, wherein the circuit node is arranged to discharge in the evaluation phase in response to the data signal being logically high and the circuit node is arranged to not discharge in the evaluation phase in response to the data signal being logically low.

Claim 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (currently amended). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 27, ~~25~~, further comprising:

a slave latch circuit;

wherein the first isolating circuit has an output connected to the slave latch circuit, the first isolating circuit is configured to generate an output signal at the output, and the slave latch circuit is configured to buffer-store the output signal.

Claim 27 (currently amended). A signal level displacement circuit for a flip flop operable to be clocked by a clock signal, the signal level displacement circuit comprising:

_____ a signal delay circuit configured to generate a delayed clock signal corresponding to the clock signal delayed by a time delay;

_____ a programmable capacitor unit coupling a circuit node to a reference potential, the programmable capacitor unit arranged to charge to an operating voltage in a charging phase in response to the clock signal being logically low and to discharge in an evaluation phase depending on a data signal in response to the clock signal being logically high and the delayed and inverted clock signal being logically high, the programmable capacitor unit having a programmable capacitance;

~~The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 25, further comprising:~~

_____ a first isolating circuit configured to be clocked by the clock signal and having an input connected to the circuit node;

a second isolating circuit configured and arranged to be clocked by the delayed clock signal;

wherein an output of the first isolating circuit feeds back to the input of the first isolating circuit via the second isolating circuit.

Claim 28 (currently amended). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in ~~claim 23~~ claim 27, wherein the signal delay circuit, the circuit node, and the programmable capacitor unit ~~capacitor~~ are incorporated into a master latch circuit.

Claim 29 (currently amended). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 28, wherein:

the master latch circuit further includes an inverter configured to generate an ~~and~~ inverted clock signal corresponding to an inversion of the clock signal;

the master latch circuit further includes a first controllable switch driven by the inverted clock signal; and

the first controllable switch switches the operating voltage to the circuit node in response to the clock signal being logically low.

Claim 30 (currently amended). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 28, wherein:

the master latch circuit further includes a reference potential node configured to be coupled to a ~~the~~ reference potential;

the master latch circuit further includes a second, third and fourth controllable ~~switches,~~ switches, the first, second and ~~second, third, and fourth~~ controllable switches being connected in series with one another between a voltage supply ~~the circuit node~~ and the reference potential node.

Claim 31 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 30, wherein the master latch circuit is configured to generate a delayed inverted clock signal and to drive the second controllable switch with the delayed inverted clock signal.

Claim 32 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 30, wherein the third controllable switch is arranged to be driven by the data signal.

Claim 33 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 30, wherein the fourth controllable switch is arranged to be driven by the clock signal.

Claim 34 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 30, wherein the capacitor is connected in parallel with the second, third and fourth controllable switches.

Claim 35 (currently amended). ~~The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 28,~~
A signal level displacement circuit for a flip flop operable to be clocked by a clock signal, the signal level displacement circuit comprising:

_____ a signal delay circuit configured to generate a delayed clock signal corresponding to the clock signal delayed by a time delay;

_____ a programmable capacitor unit coupling a circuit node to a reference potential, the programmable capacitor unit arranged to charge to an operating voltage in a charging phase in response to the clock signal being logically low and to discharge in an evaluation phase depending on a data signal in response to the clock signal being logically high and the delayed and inverted clock signal being logically high, the programmable capacitor unit having a programmable capacitance;

_____ wherein the signal delay circuit, the circuit node, and the programmable capacitor unit are incorporated into a master latch circuit; and

wherein the time delay is adjustable.

Claim 36 (currently amended). A signal level displacement circuit for a flip flop operable to be clocked by a clock signal, the signal level displacement circuit comprising:

a signal delay circuit configured to generate a delayed clock signal corresponding to the clock signal delayed by a time delay;

a programmable capacitor unit coupling a circuit node to a reference potential, the programmable capacitor unit arranged to charge to an operating voltage in a charging phase in response to the clock signal being logically low and to discharge in an evaluation phase depending on a data signal in response to the clock signal being logically high and the delayed and inverted clock signal being logically high, the programmable capacitor unit having a programmable capacitance;

wherein the signal delay circuit, the circuit node, and the programmable capacitor unit are incorporated into a master latch circuit; and ~~The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 35,~~ wherein during the evaluation phase the capacitor discharges with a time constant in response to the data signal being logically high and the time constant is less than the time delay.

Claim 37 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the master latch circuit is configured to make the time delay is less than a time period of the clock signal.

Claim 38 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the signal delay circuit comprises a plurality of inverter stages connected in series.

Claim 39 (Previously presented). The signal level displacement circuit as claimed in claim 28, wherein the master latch circuit is configured to receive only a single supply voltage.

Claims 40-42 (Canceled).